

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. U. S. Publication 2003/0187620 to Nygaard, JR. et al. is the reference closest to the claimed invention. Nygaard, JR. et al. disclose a method of measuring a degree of dissimilarity between component eye diagrams in a collection thereof, the method comprising the steps of: (a) selecting a reference feature on each component eye diagram in the collection; (b) forming a composite eye diagram from the component eye diagrams in the collection, However, Nygaard, JR. et al. do not teach (b) the reference feature of each component eye diagram in the collection being in forced alignment within the composite eye diagram; and (c) maintaining a data structure describing offsets needed to align the reference features of the component eye diagrams in the collection and that form the composite eye diagram, and so forth; and including all of the other limitations in the respective independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano can be reached on 571-272-7925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 25, 2008
Art Unit 2857

/Carol S Tsai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2857